

**SOUTH CAROLINA GAS &
ELECTRIC COMPANY**

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

SALUDA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

FERC NO. 516

FERC COMPLIANCE ARTICLES

WOODY DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

JANUARY 2006

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**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS
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**FERC COMPLIANCE ARTICLES
WOODY DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This plan was prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) Order Approving Land Use and Shoreline Management Plan for FERC Project No. 516, issued and effective June 23, 2004 and subsequent Order Clarifying and Modifying the June Order, issued and effective October 28, 2004. Paragraph E of the June 23 Order and Paragraph F of the October 28 Order require South Carolina Electric & Gas (SCE&G) to develop and file a plan, by June 23, 2005, for managing large woody debris, for fish habitat restoration and public safety on Lake Murray. On May 31, 2005, SCE&G requested a time extension until January 31, 2006.

This plan addresses management of woody debris below the 360' foot contour (Plant Datum) (the 360).

1.0 BACKGROUND

In 1980, pursuant to a FERC order in FERC Docket No. E-7791, SCE&G established a shoreline management plan (SMP), a part of which consisted of a shoreline classification system. Among other things, this classification system included a category of lands classified as "future private development." In 1984, as part of the new license issued by the FERC for Project No. 516, the Commission re-approved, with modification, the 1980 SMP. Future private development lands (Future Development Lands) include properties classified such that they could be considered for future sale.

Woody debris consists of both large and small woody vegetation that is floating or submerged, stationary or transitory, exposed or transported by lake fluctuations and flows, and is subject to decay.

- *Submerged woody debris* is stationary and generally consists of submerged or partially submerged tree stumps or deadfalls.
- *Floating woody debris* is considered transitory and enters the watershed either through flooding or by felling of shoreline vegetation. Floating debris is generally distributed by wind and wave action and collects in coves and inlets on the lake.
- *Shoreline woody debris* is generally considered to include trees and other woody litter that falls partially into the water from the shoreline (trees fall over or snap off). Shoreline woody debris may remain high enough on the bank so that it is not dislodged during periods of high water. Shoreline woody debris that does not remain stable is considered “floating” woody debris; shoreline woody debris that falls completely in the water and rests on the bottom of the lake is considered “submerged” woody debris.

Submerged and shoreline woody debris provides habitat for many species of fish, macroinvertebrates, birds, reptiles and mammals. Even floating debris may eventually settle and provide aquatic habitat for some species. Woody debris may also pose a boating hazard or be an impediment to navigation.

2.0 GOAL

The goal of this plan is to identify and implement options to manage woody debris to maintain fish and wildlife habitat value and to minimize potential navigational and safety hazards. This plan provides management guidelines below the 360 foot contour for (a) areas of stable (stationary and established for more than 2 years) submerged woody debris that may be sufficient in area and density to provide significant fish and wildlife habitat adjacent to future development areas; (b) transitory (floating) woody debris in Lake Murray; and (c) shoreline woody debris adjacent to lands classified for future development. Existing woody debris located on property identified as Forest and Game Management property and some Recreation property will not be disturbed.

Management strategies undertaken for woody debris management must comply with SCE&G’s permitting program, erosion and sedimentation program, buffer zone management and

other management prescriptions detailed in the Shoreline Management Plan. Additional restrictions may apply if the woody debris is in an area identified as an environmentally sensitive area (ESA).

3.0 *MANAGEMENT ACTIONS*

As a baseline, SCE&G maintains a policy of no disturbance for any and all woody debris unless its removal is necessary for reasons of health and human safety, or the debris is so minimal that it is insignificant in the provision of fish or wildlife habitat.

3.1 Submerged Woody Debris

SCE&G's Shoreline Management Program allows limited removal of shoreline vegetation necessary for the construction and installation of docks and other permitted shoreline amenities. Shoreline property owners must obtain permission from SCE&G prior to removing shoreline woody debris below the 360 foot contour. If a dock is proposed for an area that contains significant, stable woody debris, SCE&G may propose an alternate location for the dock. For tree stumps which pose a material threat to safety, landowners may be allowed to cut them off to an appropriate level, depending on expected water depth and proximity to docks and other activity-related facilities.

While the presence of woody debris is considered to provide some fish and wildlife habitat, it can also present a safety hazard to those engaged in activities on the lake. Debris just below water level, particularly stumps, can pose serious safety risks, especially at the high speeds associated with water skiing and jet skiing, or with activities such as swimming, where jumping from fixed or floating facilities such as docks might occur. As such, consideration for safety and navigation needs is given priority with respect to woody debris management. SCE&G's woody debris management policy prohibits the removal of woody debris below elevation 360' unless it poses a clear safety or navigation concern, is brought to the attention of SCE&G's Lake Management Department personnel (Lake Management), and is approved by Lake Management. SCE&G will only allow removal of the portion of woody debris that poses the concern; the remaining woody debris is to be left intact.

3.2 Floating Woody Debris

Floating woody debris, may be removed by SCE&G, SCDNR, or any member of the boating public when encountered if it is reasonably considered a material public safety issue or impediment to navigation. The debris is typically removed from open water areas and taken to the shoreline. SCE&G encourages that it be secured onshore in undeveloped areas, preferably in areas not readily available to boaters for high speed navigation, such as the backs of coves and/or forest and game management lands.

3.3 Shoreline Woody Debris

Shoreline woody debris is managed in a manner similar to submerged woody debris. Limited removal of shoreline woody debris may be permitted to accommodate construction and installation of docks or other permitted shoreline amenities. However, should a dock be proposed for an area that contains significant shoreline woody debris, SCE&G may propose an alternate location for the dock or prohibit the dock altogether. Shoreline property owners must obtain permission from SCE&G to remove shoreline woody debris below the 360' foot contour. Unauthorized removal of stable shoreline woody debris may result in the cancellation of dock permits and/or other shoreline amenity permits and a requirement that there be appropriate mitigation for the improper woody debris removal.

Shoreline woody debris agreed by SCE&G to be a navigation hazard may be removed.